

**Amendments to the Claims:**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:**

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A method for selecting suppliers in a supply chain management framework, comprising:
  - a) a supply chain management computer of an independent supply chain manager receiving data from a plurality of independent stores at least one store of a supply chain utilizing a network, the data comprising an amount relating to the sale of goods sold by the plurality of stores on at least a daily basis, with the sales not via the network at least one store;
  - b) the supply chain management computer receiving, utilizing the network, supplier information from a plurality of suppliers and/or distributors and/or stores in order to facilitate comparisons of suppliers based on at least one of the following supplier performance parameters, including fill rate, perfect delivery, lead-time, and on-time delivery;
  - c) the supply chain management computer generating an electronic order form based on the data for ordering goods from a distributor of the supply chain;
  - d) receiving supplier information from a management headquarters utilizing the network, wherein the supplier information includes obtaining an identification of a plurality of suppliers selected to supply the store with the goods;
  - e) the independent supply chain manager using the supplier information to select one of the suppliers and to transmit the a supplier electronic order form that includes at least one of the supplier performance parameters to the selected suppliers of the supply chain utilizing the network; and
  - f) the supply chain management computer of the independent supply chain manager generating an alert based on a comparison of the supplier performance parameter in the supplier electronic order form to an actual performance of the supplier.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic order form is generated by the at least one store.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic order form is generated by the distributor.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently amended) A system for selecting suppliers in a supply chain management framework, comprising:  
an electronic storage; and  
  
a set of processors that use the electronic storage and include among them the following logic elements
  - a) logic for a supply chain management computer of an independent supply chain manager receiving data from a plurality of independent stores at least one store of a supply chain utilizing a network, the data comprising an amount relating to the sale of goods sold by the plurality of stores on at least a daily basis, with the sales not via the network at least one store;
  - b) logic for the supply chain management computer receiving, utilizing the network, supplier information from a plurality of suppliers and/or distributors and/or stores in order to facilitate comparisons of suppliers based on at least one of the following supplier performance parameters, including fill rate, perfect delivery, lead-time, and on-time delivery;
  - c) logic for the supply chain management computer generating an electronic order form based on the data for ordering goods from a distributor of the supply chain;
  - d) logic for receiving supplier information from a management headquarters utilizing the network, wherein the supplier information includes obtaining an

- identification of a plurality of suppliers selected to supply the store with the goods;
- e) logic for the independent supply chain manager using the supplier information to select one of the suppliers and to transmit thea supplier electronic order form that includes at least one of the supplier performance parameters to the selected ~~suppliers~~ suppliers of the supply chain utilizing the network; and
  - f) logic for the supply chain management computer of the independent supply chain manager generating an alert based on a comparison of the supplier performance parameter in the supplier electronic order form to an actual performance of the supplier.
8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the network includes the Internet.
9. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the electronic order form is generated by the at least one store.
10. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the electronic order form is generated by the distributor.
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled).
13. (Currently amended) A computer program product for selecting suppliers in a supply chain management framework, comprising:  
a set of computer usable media having computer readable program code embodied therein to be executed by a computer, the computer readable program code comprising:
- a) computer code for a supply chain management computer of an independent supply chain manager receiving data from a plurality of independent stores at least one store of a supply chain utilizing a network, the data comprising an

- amount relating to the sale of goods sold by the plurality of stores on at least a daily basis, with the sales not via the network at least one store;
- b) computer code for the supply chain management computer receiving, utilizing the network, supplier information from a plurality of suppliers and/or distributors and/or stores in order to facilitate comparisons of suppliers based on at least one of the following supplier performance parameters, including fill rate, perfect delivery, lead-time, and on-time delivery;
  - c) computer code for the supply chain management computer generating an electronic order form based on the data for ordering goods from a distributor of the supply chain;
  - d) computer code for ~~receiving supplier information from a management headquarters utilizing the network, wherein the supplier information includes~~ obtaining an identification of a plurality of suppliers selected to supply the store with the goods;
  - e) computer code for the independent supply chain manager using the supplier information to select one of the suppliers and to transmit the a supplier electronic order form that includes at least one of the supplier performance parameters to the selected ~~suppliers~~ suppliers of the supply chain utilizing the network; and
  - f) computer code for the supply chain management computer of the independent supply chain manager generating an alert based on a comparison of the supplier performance parameter in the supplier electronic order form to an actual performance of the supplier.
14. (Original) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the network includes the Internet.
15. (Original) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the electronic order form is generated by the at least one store.
16. (Original) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the electronic order form is generated by the distributor.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Cancelled)